Services and 10 years for Cellular Service, the question of periodical renewal does not arise.

Earnings from Telephone connections

35. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone consumers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total earnings on account of security deposit and the earnings from the interest on amount deposited as security; and

(c) the manner in which this amount is being used by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Total number of telephone consumers i.e. Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) as on 31.01.1999 are 19,821,033. State-wise details given in the statement. (*See* below)

(b) During 1997-98 the department collected a total amount of Rs. 629.02 crores as initial deposit (Registration Fee) from applicants of various categories of telephones. The department does not earn any interest on these collections. In fact, it is the applicants who earn interest on the amounts so deposited in accordance with the rules prescribed in this regard. During 1997-98 a sum of Rs. 29.76 cr. was allowed as such interest by the Department.

(c) The amount so received from prospective telephone subscribers towards Registration fees is being taken to Revenue head of the Department and is treated as Internal Resources of the Department which are used for both its capital and revenue expenditures.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Telecom Circle	Total Number of DELs
1.	*Andaman & Nicobar*	12427
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1412059
3.	Assam	182790
4.	Bihar	449214
5.	Gujarat	1396625
6.	Haryana	472359
7.	Himachal Pradesh	196663
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	101703
9.	Karnataka	1368436
10.	Kerala	1241891
11.	Madhya Pradesh	868057
12.	Maharashtra	1697547
13.	North East	132853
14.	Orissa	306466
15.	Punjab	981241
16.	Rajasthan	841599
17.	Tamil Nadu	1327670
18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	786540
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	740416
20.	West Bengal	363556
21.	Calcutta	825580
22.	Chennai	562635
23.	Delhi	1578934
24.	Mumbai	1973772
	TOTAL	19821033

Internet service by MTNL

36. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications has recently shot down MTNL proposal to start internet services; if so, what were the details of their proposal;

(b) the reasons for rejecting the proposal;

(c) whether public sector players have been provided the level playing field vis-a-vis private sector in providing internet services across the country; and

(d) the details of private sector operating internet services in the country and terms and conditions fixed for their operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details of the licences issued to private Companies are enclosed in Statement-I (*See* below). A Synopsis of the terms and conditions are available in Statement-II.